



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS

Washington, D.C. – Today, the International Bureau announced several appointments in the Bureau. Mindel De La Torre, Chief of the International Bureau, said “I am pleased to announce several additions to my leadership team that we have been building during the past few months. These individuals, including newly appointed Deputy Bureau Chief, Troy Tanner, will add to the strength and expertise of the International Bureau and further our capabilities to support the Chairman and the FCC in promoting global connectivity—including the spread of broadband and the free flow of data across borders—through policy initiatives and participation in international fora.”

### Office of the Bureau Chief

- Thomas Sullivan has been appointed Associate Chief/Chief of Staff, International Bureau where he will lead efforts to optimize Bureau performance relative to the Commission’s strategic goals. He first joined the Commission in 1991, as a Program Analyst in the Office of the Managing Director. When the International Bureau was established in 1994, Mr. Sullivan became the Bureau’s first Assistant Bureau Chief – Management. Mr. Sullivan earned a B.A. and an M.P.P. from the University of Michigan.
- Linda Haller Sloan, Associate Bureau Chief, has returned to the International Bureau (IB) Front Office from a detail to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). At OSTP, she contributed to the successful launch of several key national security and emergency preparedness initiatives, and provided legal and policy guidance and expertise. Ms. Haller Sloan leads the Bureau’s cybersecurity and other security issues in coordination with the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, among other responsibilities. Ms. Haller Sloan has a B.A. from George Washington University and a J.D. from Georgetown University.
- Jennifer Gilsenan has been appointed Assistant Chief, International Bureau. Ms. Gilsenan first joined the FCC in 1994 as an Attorney in the International Bureau. Prior to her current appointment, she served in several management roles within the Bureau, including Branch Chief and Associate Division Chief of the Satellite Division, and Deputy Division Chief of the Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division. Ms. Gilsenan

earned a B.A. from the University of Delaware and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore.

- David Strickland has been appointed Assistant Chief, International Bureau. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Strickland served as an Associate Division Chief of the International Bureau's Policy Division. Mr. Strickland has a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.
- Walt Strack has been appointed Assistant Chief (Economics), International Bureau. Dr. Strack joined the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in 1995 from the Interstate Commerce Commission. Dr. Strack served as the Chief Economist in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau before joining the International Bureau in February 2010. Dr. Strack earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Virginia in 1987.
- Robert Somers has been appointed Outreach Coordinator for the International Bureau. His duties include coordinating study programs for international delegations visiting the FCC to learn about a wide range of telecommunications and media issues. Mr. Somers previously worked in the International Bureau as Director of the International Visitors Program from 1999 to 2004. He joined the Commission in 1987 as an attorney in the Media Bureau and later served as Chief of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau. Mr. Somers earned his B.A. in history from Boston University and his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University.
- Irene Wu has been named Acting Chief Data Officer for the International Bureau. Previously, she was the Director of Research in the Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division. Dr. Wu joined the Commission in 1996 and has covered both APEC and the OECD. She is an adjunct professor in Georgetown University's Communications, Culture, and Technology program; in 2007-08 she was their first Yahoo! Fellow in Values, Communications Technology and Global Internet. She also has published a book on telecom reform in China. Dr. Wu holds an A.B. in Social Studies from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

#### Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division

- Richard Lerner has been appointed Deputy Chief, Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division, International Bureau. Mr. Lerner joined the Commission in 1995 from the firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay. He worked in the Wireline Competition Bureau (formerly Common Carrier Bureau) for over eleven years, serving in various management positions, including Deputy Division Chief, Associate Bureau Chief, and Chief of Staff. In 2006, Mr. Lerner joined the Office of Managing Director, serving as a Special Counsel to the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Lerner earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.
- Julie Saulnier has been appointed Deputy Chief, Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division, International Bureau. Prior to joining the government, Ms. Saulnier spent

seven years in private practice in administrative law, including telecommunications, and eight years in administrative and management positions with two private law firms and a non-profit organization. Ms. Saulnier joined the FCC in 2001 as an attorney in the Wireline Competition Bureau. In 2005, she moved to the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, where she became Deputy Chief of the Consumer Policy Division. Ms. Saulnier holds a B.A. from McDaniel College and a J.D. from Stanford University.

- Robert Tanner has been appointed Assistant Chief, Strategic Analysis & Negotiations Division, International Bureau. He first joined the Commission in 1995 as a Law Clerk for Commissioner Rachelle Chong. He was appointed as an Attorney in the Wireline Competition Bureau in 1996, leaving in 1998 to join the firm of Davis, Wright, Tremaine LLP. In 2001, he re-joined the FCC as an Attorney in the Wireline Competition Bureau, where he went on to become Assistant Bureau Chief in 2004. In 2006, he joined the International Bureau as a Special Counsel. Mr. Tanner earned a B.A. from California Polytechnic State University in 1992 and a J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1995.

#### Satellite Division

- Paul Blais has been appointed Branch Chief, Systems Analysis Branch, Satellite Division. Mr. Blais joined the FCC from the Defense Spectrum Organization, DISA, where he was lead engineer for ITU satellite coordination. While at DISA, he also supported Department of Defense (DoD) efforts leading up to and during the World Radio Conference (WRC) 2007 and preparations for WRC 2012. Prior to that position, from 1992 to 2005, Mr. Blais provided engineering, acquisition, and program consulting support for DoD telecommunications programs. Upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1978, Mr. Blais led various Marine Corps communication organizations as a commissioned officer until 1992, and earned an M.S.E.E. from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.